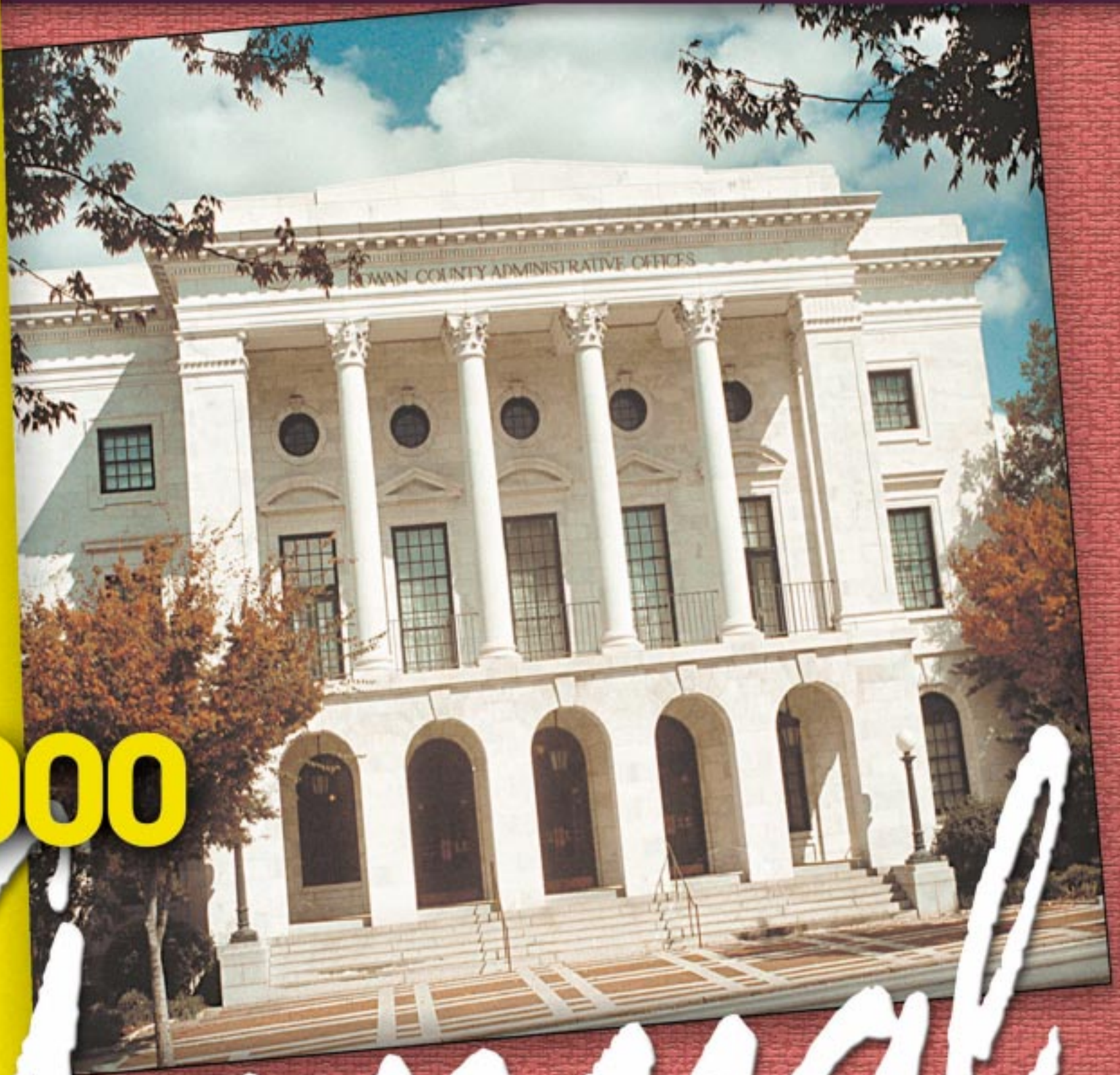


Rowan County



2000

Annual

REPORT

County Commissioners

“Working For You”



Seated: J. Newton Cohen-Chairman; Standing: Dave Rowland, Arnold Chamberlain, Steve Blount-Vice Chairman and Frank Tadlock

Greetings Rowan County Citizens

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners is proud to present the ***First Annual Report to the Citizens of Rowan County***. In the following pages, you will find information on the various departments of Rowan County Government emphasizing the many challenges and achievements of these departments and the services that are available to each and every citizen of our county. You will read about the many directions County Government is taking to improve the quality of life that we believe is important to every citizen.

As we begin this new millennium, the Board of County Commissioners is progressing forward to achieve the following goals:

- Continue funding the Rowan-Salisbury Schools at or above the State Average.
- Support the new Pretrial Services program that addresses the overcrowded jail population while saving tax dollars.
- Build a new South Rowan Library Branch.
- Emphasize public safety by striving to reduce the crime rate.
- Fund the Rowan Rescue Squad on a permanent basis.
- Insure that citizens receive emergency assistance as quickly as possible through the addition of new Telecommunicators.
- Further develop the RITA Transportation program, allowing ambulances to be used for emergency purposes only.
- Prepare for the Salisbury-Rowan County 250th Birthday Celebration to be held in April 2003.
- Further develop the *Rowan County Smile Center* for children.
- Insure the continued success of the "Work First" program, moving people from welfare into the work force.
- Insure success of the "Families for Kids" program bringing the foster parents and adoptions to the forefront.

The Board will continue to make the best decisions for the good of all of our citizens. Working together, we will make Rowan County "A County Committed to Excellence".

Sincerely,

J. Newton Cohen,
Chairman

County Manager



County Manager-Tim Russell

To The Citizens of Rowan County:

Rowan County is proud to present its first annual report to the people. The Board of Commissioners and our staff are proud of the services offered to each citizen. The report offers a visual presentation of many of those services as well as county facilities that are available. In its almost 247 years of service, Rowan County continues to provide a quality of life that ranks among the best in North Carolina.

Rowan County was founded in 1753. Once a giant territory, many of North Carolina's counties were carved from its boundaries. As a county government, it was created by the General Assembly of North Carolina for certain public and political purposes. Any authority vested in counties was given by state laws (statutes) to be carried out by the Board of County Commissioners. As outlined in commentary prepared by the North Carolina Institute of Government, the primary reason for establishing a county was to serve state purposes and to perform state authorized functions rather than to satisfy the needs of a particular geographic community. In contrast, a city or town was formed primarily at the request of the people within its jurisdiction to serve the needs of the inhabitants.

Today, Rowan County serves over 126,000 people who reside within its jurisdictional boundaries in many diverse areas. This report will highlight only a small number of programs and services that are made available through the Board's funding in its annual operating budget. Many programs and services will be easily recognizable; others may not be known. The majority of county funding goes to two major services: public education of our children and human service programs (Social Services, Public Health, Senior Services and Mental Health Services) for those who are in need. Other services include Parks and Recreation, Public Safety (Ambulance, Law Enforcement and Emergency 911 Telephone Service), Public Library, Solid Waste Disposal, Airport, Building Code Inspections, Register of Deeds and Board of Elections.

North Carolina is changing. Our State is experiencing rapid growth in new industrial and commercial development. Manufacturing and service-related companies are seeking to locate their facilities in a thriving economic environment. This environment includes a mild climate, extensive interstate highway system, a trained and committed workforce and an excellent quality of living for raising a family.

Rowan County lies strategically in the Piedmont region and stands out to prospective industry hunters with its quality of life. With thousands of our citizens leaving the County each day for employment, as well as many of our citizens possessing skills for higher technical positions, Rowan County's highest priority remains that of attracting higher paying employment opportunities.

However, along with new jobs come challenges. Our quality of life and high paying employment opportunities also attract people who are interested in relocating their families to the area. In fact, the Charlotte area continues to be the fastest growing area of our State and Rowan County is only a short distance from Charlotte. The Board and citizens of Rowan County are faced with meeting the challenges of planning for the future of our community to enhance our quality of life, while protecting it from undesirable influences.

For the past sixteen years, I have had the pleasure to serve the Board of Commissioners and the people of Rowan County as Manager. In that time, the Board has undertaken many challenges and accomplished much towards improving the opportunities for our citizens. Rowan County's property tax rate has remained below the average county tax rate (100 counties); however, the Board has continually worked to maintain the high quality of services and programs.

In 1998, the Board unanimously committed to improve the funding and performance of our public schools by entering an ambitious agreement with the Board of Education: **"State average local funding in order to achieve State average test results within three years"**. Simply, the future of Rowan County rests with our children. We must educate our children.

With growth come decisions on the location of new industries, new homes and new retail/commercial centers. How will the I-85 corridor accommodate all of this growth? Decisions will be made by the Board of Commissioners as to how and where such growth will take place and specifically, how it will affect our communities. Growth affects current infrastructure capabilities. New schools will be needed; water and sewer lines will need to be extended; public safety agencies may need to be increased and human service agencies may demand more staff to help those citizens in need. The success of any government in addressing the challenges of growth will be determined by the willingness of its people to become educated on the issues and to actively participate in public forums, debates and hearings when opportunities occur.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and our staff, thank you for your support in making Rowan County an outstanding place to live.

Sincerely,

Tim Russell
County Manager

General Government

Tax Administration

The County Assessor's office is responsible for verifying deeds on tax maps before they are sent to the Register of Deeds for processing. One of five employees will work with county citizens to assign a map parcel and print property cards. Courtesy toward the public is a top priority for this office.

The Tax Collector's office collected more than \$45 million of current and delinquent taxes for Rowan County. With a 95.83% collected rate, they provide a significant source of revenue for the county. Over 225,000 items or calls were processed through the office, including real estate bills, vehicle bills, tax certifications and citizen inquiries. To enhance the efficiency and availability of the department, a Web site was developed for consumer use, going a long way in their effort to achieve a balance between tax collection and customer service goals. The department also researched new methods for payment of taxes via telephone and Web site.

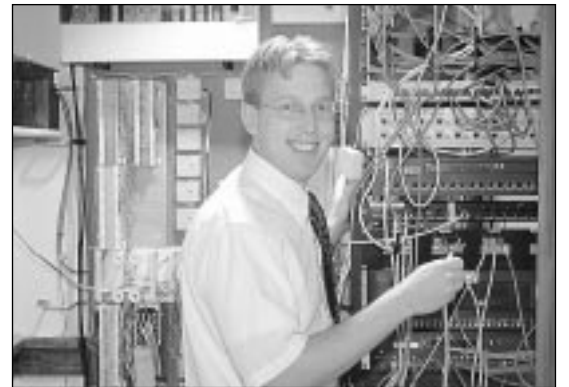
In addition to serving Rowan County citizens with tax issues, the Tax Collector's office opened its doors to local school children and continued to partner with the Rowan/Cabarrus Community College and Davidson County Community College Paralegal programs, allowing them office use during instruction on real estate title searches.

Information Technology

The Information Systems Department provides computer maintenance, consulting, programming and networking services to all departments within Rowan County Government. In addition, the Official Rowan Web Site designed and managed in a joint effort with the Public Library had in the range of 40,000 "hits" last year.

The web site provides a link to all other online departments in Rowan County Government including Tax, Election, Library, Public Safety and coming soon the Register of Deeds. For the first time, all election results were accessible via the Internet, along with sample ballots and other important election information. Bringing Rowan County Government to its citizens in their homes and work place is a major goal of the Information Systems Department.

The turn of the new century and the possible Y2K problems provided the Information Systems Department with the additional challenge of insuring that all computer equipment and computer dependant services remain operational when the new century rolled in. This hard work paid off with "zero" computer failures.



Daniel Rymer is the Network Administrator for the Rowan County Information Systems Dept.



The Register of Deeds staff is ready to assist citizens

Elections

The Rowan County Elections Office prides itself as "the keeper of democracy." Its goal is to provide fair and open elections to all citizens. With over 81,000 voters, and this being a presidential election year, the Elections Office expects a steady rise in the number of voters. New voting equipment was put into use for the May primary, making it easier and more convenient than ever for citizens to get out and vote. The Elections Office stayed busy throughout the year giving talks to civic clubs and other organizations.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds is responsible for the recording, indexing, and storage of the records of all events that take place in Rowan County, including births, deaths, marriages, discharges, and land record documents. Last year, while serving Rowan County citizens, the Register of Deeds processed almost 100,000 certified and regular copies of vital records and land records, issued 1,008 marriage licenses and gave oaths to 540 Notaries. Recordings included 30,870 land records, 925 births, 1,225 deaths, and 49 discharges. As of June 1, citizens can log on to the Register of Deeds web page, via the County's web site, to find answers to questions about the office, with plans to expand that site in the near future so that citizens can access more information, including the land records index. All documents processed through the Register of Deeds are copied to a media so they can be retrieved for public use. The Register of Deeds office strives everyday to "serve the public as efficiently as possible with consideration and a smile."

Finance

The Finance Department works hard "behind the scenes" in Rowan County. The Department directs the fiscal management system for the County, which includes the receipt, deposit investment, budgetary control and disbursement of county funds. Last year, in addition to the regular employee payroll checks that were issued, over 21,100 accounts payable checks were also issued through the Finance Department. In August of 1999, the Department was expanded to add the Ambulance, Billing and Collections Division. Another first for the Department was the in-house preparation of the annual financial statements for FYE June 30, 1999. The entire department participated in the United Way Day of Caring by helping to install landscaping at a local elementary school.

Human Resources

Rowan County is the ninth largest employer in the County. The Human Resources Department focuses its efforts on recruiting and training the most qualified employees for County Government. Other priorities include implementing policies and procedures, researching compensation and benefit plans, and motivating and rewarding employee effort. The recently launched Website allows job seekers to complete an on-line application, view county benefits, available positions, job descriptions and salary ranges. Other items located on the Website are employee announcements, performance appraisal forms, and Human Resources staff. Last year, the department reached out to our community with the successful coordination of the County's annual Red Cross Blood Drive and March of Dimes Walk. With a commitment to community education, highlights of this year's activities include the planning of "Breaking Barriers with Carolina Abello," an Hispanic Conference and active involvement with the Salisbury Rowan Human Relations Council, the Rowan Partnership for Children and the RCCC Taskforce on the Workforce Development Profile.

Public Safety



Lt. Debra Yokley provides safety and security for Rowan County.

Sheriff's Department

The Rowan County Sheriff's Department affects the quality of life for our citizens by providing safety and security. With an average response time of just under 10 minutes, the department answered over 31,000 calls for service last year. In addition to responding to calls, the Sheriff's Department also ensures the safe, effective operation of county courts and county detention facility. Impressive statistics for 1999 included 33,619 civil papers served and over 5,000 arrests made. With top-rate detective, patrol and aggressive drug investigation units, the Sheriff's Department works together to solve major crimes and make drug arrests. The sheriff's department's presence is felt everywhere in the county through:

- School resource officers
- D.A.R.E. officers
- Special response units
- Boat, pontoon and personal watercraft patrol of High Rock and Tuckertown lakes
- Department and detention facility tours
- Explorer program for teens interested in a law enforcement career
- Community outreach programs in schools, churches and centers

With the crime rate down 18.9% last year, the Rowan County Sheriff's Department is succeeding in keeping Rowan County a safe place to work and live.



Telecommunicator, Sherry Earnhardt, promptly responds to 9-1-1 calls.

Telecommunications

The Telecommunications Department handled over 112,000 calls last year to its consolidated emergency dispatch center. The dispatch center handles each incoming 9-1-1 call in Rowan County, coordinating a response for over forty public safety agencies including fire, emergency medical, law enforcement and rescue.

Staffed 24 hours a day, the department uses state-of-the-art communications equipment to insure prompt response. Tours of the 9-1-1 center are popular with all ages, and available to schools, community groups and individuals.

In addition to the emergency dispatch center, the Telecommunications Department coordinates the use of a countywide two-way radio system and data system. With these systems in place, citizens are assured of prompt and coordinated response by all county agencies.

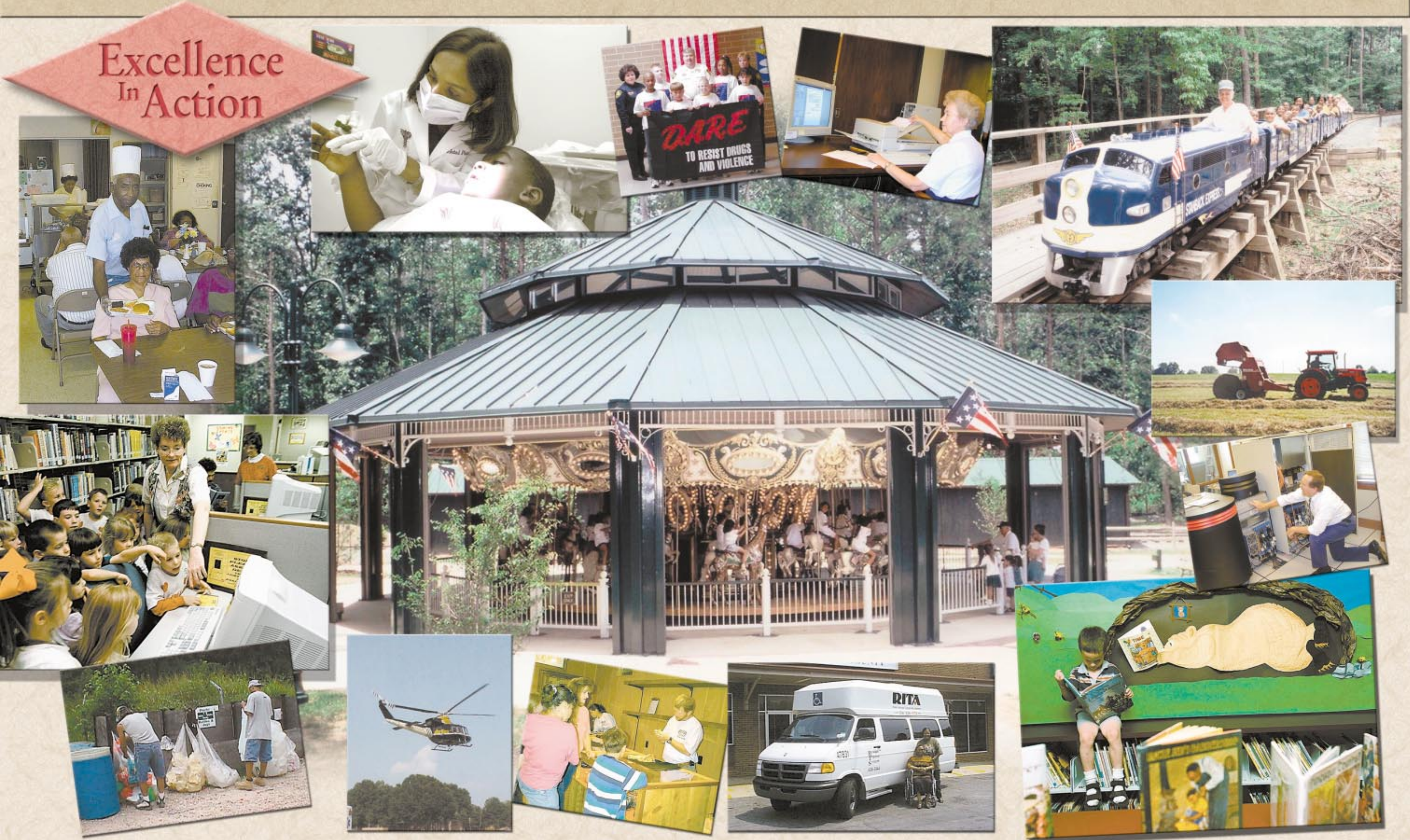
EMS

EMS faces new challenges as we enter the new century. Limited resources and growing needs require creative solutions. Last year's growth in southwestern and northwestern portions of the county resulted in long response times. As a result, a comprehensive multi-year plan to improve service is in the works.

Call volume has remained around 100,000 per year but inappropriate requests for ambulance service have declined. By publicizing the RITA transportation service and working with nursing homes and Rowan Regional Medical Center, EMS has been effective in educating the public on the correct use of ambulance service and providing an alternative to ambulance service. As part of a campaign to improve medical documentation and insurance reimbursement, EMS has initiated a new procedure manual on reimbursement issues, held workshops for employees on insurance information collection and begun a review process of employee work.



Emergency Services responds quickly to ensure that citizens receive the best care possible.



Culture and Recreation

Parks

Dan Nicholas Park received a total of 600,000 visitors last year, with two-thirds of those being Rowan County residents. With Haden's Carousel, the miniature train, nature center, petting zoo, playground, putt-putt, lake and sporting activities, Dan Nicholas continues to offer a family atmosphere, promoting family values. School children from all over the state visited Dan Nicholas, and staff members stayed busy with educational classes on nature, rocks and minerals. Activities of past eras, such as soap-making, were brought alive through the Food Lion Heritage Series. The opening of the Miner Moose Gem Mine at Dan Nicholas was a big attraction. Since June, visitors have enjoyed sifting for rough-gem material, which can be taken for identification and even be made into jewelry, all at the Miner Moose. The first weekend of October, with Autumn Jubilee, Dan Nicholas saw a record number of visitors taking advantage of the annual festival. Vendors, entertainers and visitors alike packed the park to celebrate the beginning of fall.

Ellis Park continued its Pee-Wee league baseball program last year, with over 175 kids on ten teams. A newly refurbished kitchen in the dining room/kitchen makes the park a great location for birthday parties and family reunions. The facility is routinely rented for use on weekends. Attendance at the park last year topped 50,000.



James Pendergrass shows children snakes from the Nature Center.

Sloan Park hosted Kids Day on the Hill, bringing kids together with area agencies for a fun day of activities. Among the participants were Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Fire Department, Carolina Raptor Center, and storytellers. Over 168 different schools have visited the park to take advantage of the playground, sports facilities and the tours of historic Kerr Mill. Fast becoming a semi-annual event, Sloan Park plays host to an antique sports car show. With the addition of two new mowers and a John Deere utility vehicle, the park stays in top shape for its 50,000-plus visitors each year. In the works is an audio walking tour, which will allow visitors to learn as they stroll the park's two trails, the Alice Stanback Monument Forest and the Henry W. Culp Famous & Historic Tree Trail.

The Special Populations Program insures the availability of recreation programs for those with disabilities and senior citizens of Rowan County. Bowling, swimming, art classes, putt-putt and field trips are just a sampling of the activities that drew close to 700 participants last year. The recent construction of a bocce facility at Ellis Park will be used by Senior Games and Special Olympics, both heavily supported by the Special Populations Department. With two full-time employees and 1 part-time employee, staff depends heavily on volunteer support, with many coming from Catawba and Livingstone Colleges.

Library

The Rowan Public Library provides library materials and services that inform, educate, and entertain; promotes literacy, the enjoyment of reading and lifelong learning; and serves as a center for community activities and services. Last year, the library had over 66,000 registered users and recorded 259,366 visitors, who checked out 555,393 books, videos and audiocassettes.

Library programs had attendance of over 48,000 last year, with a record number of children—over 1,500—participating in the summer reading program, “Long Ago and Far Away.” Other popular programs include the Children's Story Times, the fall Storytelling Festival, the Talks and Tours Literary Series, and free Internet Classes offered throughout the month.

In addition to the many programs offered through the library, the library also has services available for every age group. Highlights of services offered include:

- Public computers for Internet access, word processing, and children's educational games
- Information Services: help with informational needs including medical information, job seeking, consumer issues, self-help, and any other topics
- Homework help for all ages
- Comprehensive genealogy and local history collection
- WWII Oral History Project including thousands of recorded interviews of local and regional WWII veterans
- “Stories-to-Go” to area daycares and home daycares: the library “bookmobile” visits daycares with reading programs and books for children to check out
- Home-schooling support: library materials and state information on home schooling

Rowan Public Library has continued growing over the years to meet the needs of Rowan County citizens. Due to the significant growth in the South Rowan area, the library is eagerly anticipating the addition of a new South Rowan Regional Library in the near future, enabling improved services to county residents.

Rowan Public Library strives to provide the best possible library service to the citizens of Rowan County. In recognition of its efforts, Rowan Public Library has earned numerous awards, including the N.C. Association of County Commissioners Award for its Oral History Program and the Library of the Future Award from the ALA/Information Today. With public library resources rated highest in a ranking of items contributing to quality of life in the county, Rowan Public Library is committed to improving the quality of life for citizens of Rowan County. Rowan Public Library is truly the “Very Best Place to Start!”



Rowan Public Library provides service to “All” ages.

Human Services

Health Department

The Rowan County Health Department serves the entire community by identifying public health needs and developing public health policy, by providing community programs and client services, and by promoting a safe and clean environment. Major services and programs include:

- Adult Health services such as tuberculosis testing and treatment, HIV testing and counseling and adult immunizations.
- Child Health services including well-child visits and immunizations for children up to age 18.
- Dental Health & Education through the Smile Savers Program and the Smile Center.
- Family Care Coordination for at-risk children and pregnant women.
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC) nutrition program.
- Primary Health care for families with Medicaid, Health Choice Insurance and self-pay clients.
- Women's Preventive Health services such as annual physicals, mammograms, pap tests and prenatal services.
- Health Education through CHIP, Health Link and community consultation.
- Environmental Health; specialists inspected food establishments, wells and septic systems and investigated child lead poisoning cases.
- Health Link Transportation Services to eligible clients.



The new Rowan County Health Services Bldg. was dedicated in Nov. 1999.

The Health Department moved into its new 24,000 square foot facility on September 27, 1999. With close to double the space, the new facility included additional exam rooms, child play areas in waiting rooms, a large community room for staff meetings, new medical equipment replacing outdated equipment and a new phone and computer system. Also more centrally located, the new facility is located on the city bus line and is more easily accessible to clients.

The Rowan County Smile Center For Children opened its doors to the public on July 6, 2000. The Smile Center was created to address Rowan County's high number of children with dental disease and the difficulty families were experiencing finding area dentists to treat their children. Through the support of many individuals and organizations, the Smile Center will provide about 2,500 dental visits to needy children each year, with available services including preventive care, restorative care and dental hygiene education. By providing high quality, cost effective care in a compassionate manner, the Smile Center is reducing untreated dental disease and reducing needless pain and suffering in our children.

Impressive statistics for the year include:

- 1600 inspections of public food-handling facilities.
- 1747 influenza and 187 pneumonia vaccines provided.
- 35,000 clinical service visits.
- 20 outreach events with over 2500 people attending.
- 1700 children educated through Smile Savers.

With Rowan County's population continuing to grow, the Rowan County Health Department continually evaluates the health care needs and identifies programs to meet the health care services of the community.

Animal Control

Rowan County has a large variety of wild and domesticated animals spread throughout its urban and rural areas. In managing our ever-growing animal population, Animal Control officers responded to over 3,500 service requests last year. The department received close to 13,500 telephone inquiries and more than 9,100 visitors to the animal shelter.

The shelter, located on Julian Road across from the county fairgrounds, can accommodate between 120 and 150 animals at one time. This 5 year-old facility features heated floors in the kennels and easy access viewing for adoptable animals.

Last year 496 animals were adopted, with another 409 redeemed by owners.

In addition to overseeing the animal adoption process, Animal Control educates the public about animal safety and disease prevention. With many recently confirmed cases of rabies involving bats, skunks and raccoons, officers stay busy notifying the public of possible hazards associated with animal diseases and advising affected citizens on treatment options. The Board of Health and the Animal Control Officers advise folks to get their dogs and cats immunized against rabies.



Yeah! Fido is "Adopted" and finds a new home.

Department of Social Services

DSS provides supportive services intended to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Rowan County. These services range from protective services for children and adults to temporary financial assistance, food assistance, medical assistance, assistance with childcare funding and assistance in securing child support payments for children. While directing countless calls from county residents needing information, DSS made over 10,000 referrals to other community agencies.

The Public Assistance Programs met or exceeded all state and federal goals last year, maintaining almost 13,000 cases which affected over 20,000 individuals per month. 15,761 new applications were received for public assistance during the year. Over 1,000 children each month benefited from assistance with the cost of childcare and the Work First program helped put 85 adults to work each month. \$6,258,231 was collected in child support and DSS Child Support agents established 333 paternities and 520 orders for child support.

A national award for the accuracy rate in the Food Stamp Program was one of several accomplishments by DSS last year. The Families For Kids program succeeded in bringing the need for foster parents and adoptions to the forefront. Last year over 90 children were placed in foster homes and 25 children were adopted, with another 39 children being cleared for adoption. The intake process created by child protective services has been so effective that it is emulated by other counties and was recognized by the state of North Carolina.



Social Services is prepared to offer assistance to citizens for various needs.

Senior Services

The Rowan County Senior Services Department helps seniors and their caregivers with quality of life services that are designed to promote successful aging in the home environment. By planning, coordinating and developing community-based services, Senior Services is working to achieve its mission of preserving and strengthening the quality of life for older citizens.

Over 14,000 public contacts were received by Senior Services last year. Over 9400 of those contacts were seniors needing specific information or assistance about department or community services. Among the many services provided were:

- In-Home Aide program; provided over 8,800 hours of home and personal chores for 83 older adults.
- Nutrition Meal Sites; served 72,146 meals to over 900 seniors at eight county locations.
- Share-A-Ride; included 26,687 one-way trips to varying locations such as shopping and medical appointments.
- Supplemental Meals Program; distributed 1,125 cases of Ensure Plus to seniors needing dietary supplements.
- Adult Day Care Program; assisted 25 seniors in attending Abundant Living Center.
- Senior Employment Program; employed 30 seniors for part-time work at fourteen different public service agencies.
- ARE YOU OK? Program; made daily phone calls to an average of 82 subscribers.
- Summer Fan Program; gave out 81 fans to seniors through annual Duke Power grant.

The RITA Transportation program was a new addition to Senior Services. This transportation service provides a CNA attendant to help passengers with mobility to and from health care facilities in Rowan County. This takes a burden from county ambulance resources and allows them to be available for emergency situations. Also relatively new is the Life Matters program, an in-home counseling service for homebound seniors and their caregivers. The service was developed based on the premise that good mental health is vital to persons of all ages. Sixteen different clients were visited for a total of 225 hours. County support, along with state and federal funding, allow Senior Services to continue to grow and implement new programs needed by our fast-increasing senior population.

The "Supplemental Meals Program" thru Senior Services, provides dietary supplements to Rowan County seniors.



Human Services, cont.



Boyd Morgan "Veterans Services Tech." assist Veterans and their families.

Veterans Services

The Veterans Services Department provides direct services to military veterans and their families. Specific services offered include assistance with; filing compensation and pension applications, applications for medical care at the VA Hospital, education benefits for children of veterans, VA Loan Eligibility Certificates, obtaining burial benefits for veterans, and information on veterans group life insurance. Miscellaneous tasks handled by staff include obtaining lost military discharges, replacing service medals and applying for lifetime hunting & fishing licenses. With approximately 14,000 veterans in Rowan County, the Veterans Services Department fielded over 10,000 requests for service in 1999, with an estimated 5,000 individuals or families served. With \$14,193,224.00 Federal dollars spent last year on compensation and pension claims to veterans and their families in Rowan County, the positive economic impact to our community is great.

Education

Rowan-Salisbury Schools

A plan to improve student performance was passed by the Rowan County Board of Commissioners in 1998. The **objective** was to improve the quality of education of students by measurement of standardized test scores and to provide adequate county funding by measurement of the statewide average per pupil appropriation (PPA). The **School's responsibility** was to meet or exceed statewide average performance standards in testing and other measurable areas within three years. The **County's responsibility** was to fund schools at the statewide average for local per pupil appropriations within two fiscal years beginning in fiscal year 1998-99. The information can be found annually in the "Statistical Profile" published by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The measurement only includes the county appropriations and other local supplemental school taxes.



N.C. Cooperative Extension Service



Cooperative Extension helps people put research-based knowledge to work, improving their quality of life. Educational Program areas are: Sustaining Agriculture & Natural Resources, Community & Rural Development, Family & Consumer Education, 4-H & Youth Life Skills Development and Horticulture. Rowan County along with USDA and N.C. State University fund this educational agency, allowing Cooperative Extension to host a variety of

programs for every member of the community. Urban and rural, young and old, professional and farmer-all benefit from the educational programs, public meetings, workshops, field days, seminars, personal consultations, and newsletters.

Last year, Cooperative Extension conducted over 275 seminars, workshops and meetings, reaching almost 19,000 citizens. Another 10,000 residents received information over the telephone, and 16 different newsletters reached over 3400 households. Many new and existing programs saw exceptional growth and highlights included:

- Dunbar Center and Granite Quarry 4-H After School Programs involved over 400 youth, adult volunteers and grant-funded staff.
- Over 230 people were trained/certified/recertified/or licensed in "Pesticide and Waste Application."
- Almost 3000 residents submitted samples for soil/tissue analysis.
- 45 Certified Master Gardeners donated 1700 hours to Rowan County Extension projects, reaching 4839 citizens.
- "How-To's of Affordable Home Ownership" Program enabled 33 low-wage earners to purchase a home with an average market value of \$63,000.
- "Consumer and Family Finances" Programs helped over 2300 people improve their family's financial practices.
- 41 school classrooms participated in the 4-H Embryology Program, resulting in thousands of hatched quail eggs-to-birds.
- "Graded Feeder Calf Sales" Program resulted in 500 calves yielding producers and an additional \$36,000 in increased value.
- "Health, Nutrition & Food Safety" and "Give Your Heart a Healthy Beat" programs reached over 1,500 families.
- Agricultural production in Rowan County provides income estimates of \$45-80 million.

When Hurricane Floyd devastated eastern North Carolina last year, Cooperative Extension was quick to respond with assistance. Locally donated loads of hay/feed and veterinary supplies were some of the first assistance to reach farmers. A media plea for help produced an outpouring of assistance from the community. All totaled, 54 transfer truck-loads of hay, along with 10 tons of grain, veterinary supplies and cash contributions of almost \$9000 were sent to help our eastern neighbors. Over a four month period, countless hours of volunteer time was donated to this Herculean effort.

Environmental Services

Landfill/Recycling

Responsible for handling all of the solid waste issues of Rowan County, the Landfill/Recycling Department stays busy overseeing the county landfill, recycling convenience centers, litter clean-up and illegal dumping enforcement. With the population of county residents growing yearly, the department expects the 126,585 citizens served last year to rise this year.

Tours of the landfill, convenience centers and the processing center are given to groups of all ages. These tours, along with recycling program presentations, help raise citizen awareness of the ever-increasing burden of solid-waste management.

Last year, Rowan County landfill operators received two state-level awards including a 1st place in the Heavy Equipment Compactor Competition and a 3rd place in the Loader Equipment Division. These top finishes qualified the group to move on to the international level, where Rowan County received a 1st place award in the Heavy Equipment Compactor Competition.



Inspections

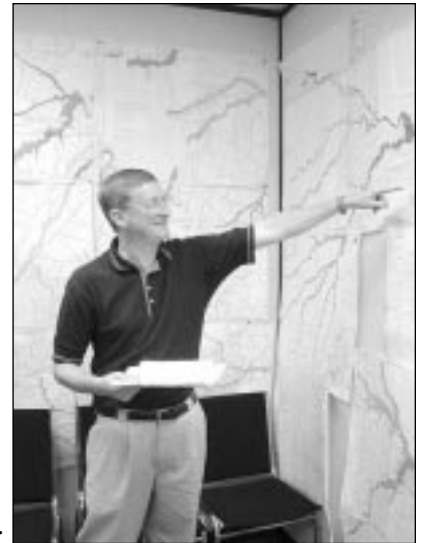
The Inspections Department ensures the safety of all citizens by enforcing state building codes. Inspectors served over 30,000 people last year, checking building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical work. In addition, the department conducted fire inspections in all commercial buildings in the county. The department helps spur the economic development in the county by working with developers to assist them with the permitting process.

Planning

The Planning Department is responsible for making sure that development activities in the county strike a balance between developer rights and protection of adjoining property. With population growth comes active development in the county and the Planning Department stays busy overseeing that development, serving 10,000 people last year alone. In addition to providing basic information to numerous people, over 2,000 zoning permits were approved, 250 subdivisions, 26 rezoning applications, and 17 zoning board adjustment cases. The Planning Department played a significant role in attracting the CP&L Combined Cycle and Peak Generation facility to the County site to our area and is currently working on an extensive project to determine development sites along I-85.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a project coordinated by the Planning Department which computerizes the County tax maps, updates address files and updates aerial photographs of the County. When this project is completed in approximately two years, Rowan County citizens will have a "state of the art" mapping and addressing system.

In addition, the Planning Department is involved with the collection of demographic and socio-economic data and analyses, research projects and other duties as requested by the Board of Commissioners.



Marion Lytle, Rowan County Zoning Administrator

Economic Development

Economic Development Commission

Rowan County has worked hard to develop an excellent location for expanding manufacturing distribution or office investments. Hard work has paid off with big companies such as Freightliner, Draftex and Dillard's choosing to locate here in recent years. Freightliner's continued expansions and their addition of the American LaFrance firetruck facility have added over 1,000 jobs to Rowan County in the past three years. The Dillard's distribution center brought 250 jobs with its 432,000 square foot facility and Draftex has contributed to our community with 800 plus jobs in their 450,000 square foot facility. The new Aldi Distribution Center, which is presently under construction and when in operation it will employ over 125 people. Most recently, CP&L has committed to building its new Combined Cycle and Peak Generation facility here, continuing the trend of development and employment in Rowan County.

Summit Corporate Center

Located along Interstate 85 at Julian Road, the Summit Corporate Center offers an accessible, strategic location conducive to business development. Over 500 gently rolling acres of prime, industrial-zoned land make up the conveniently located business park. Lot sizes range from 2 to 66 acres, all fully served with water, sewer, electric power, natural gas and telecommunications. The Summit Corporate Center is currently home to Draftex, a German manufacturer of automobile components and one of the county's top employers. No matter what the industry area, Summit Corporate Center is positioned to work for any prospective business.

Rowan County Airport

The Rowan County Airport is located one mile south of Salisbury. Carolina Aircraft, Inc., a fixed base operator, leases the facility from the county. Carolina Aircraft offers aircraft sales and service, ramp service and fuel and flight instruction. About 125 aircraft are housed at the airport, with sixty-five tied-down and the remainder kept in hangars. The aircraft belong to private citizens and local businesses, including four helicopters owned by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. Approximately 2,500 landings and takeoffs occur each month. A new, modern above-ground fuel farm was constructed in 1998 and provides pilots with over 25,000 gallons of fuel each month.

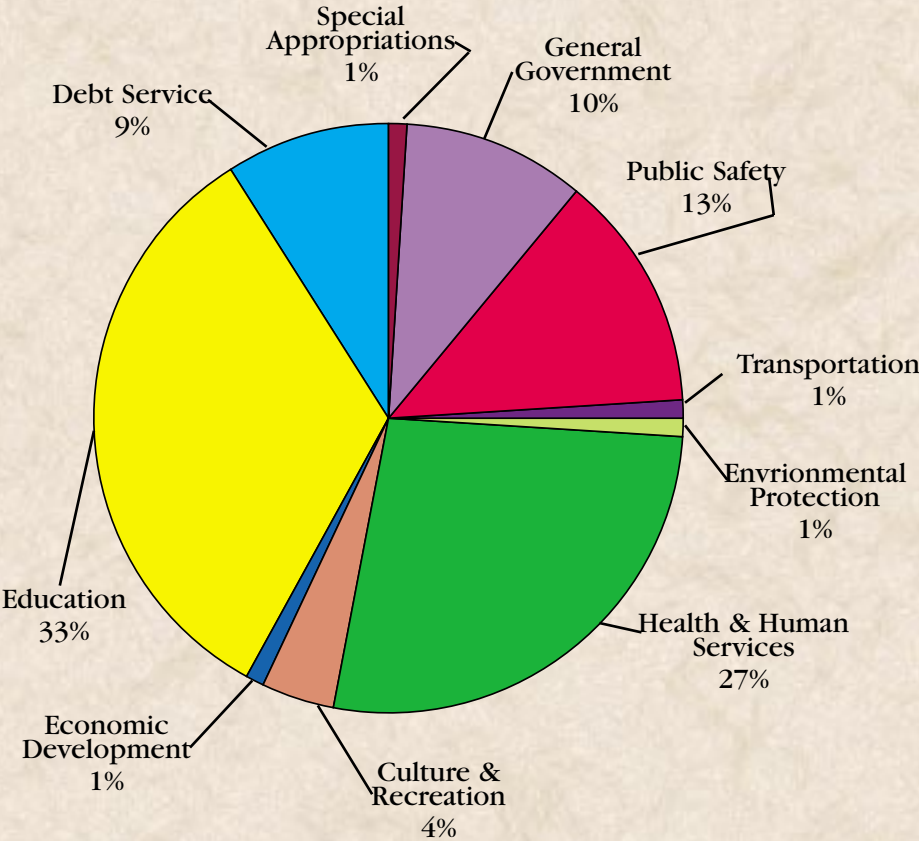
Fieldcrest Cannon Stadium



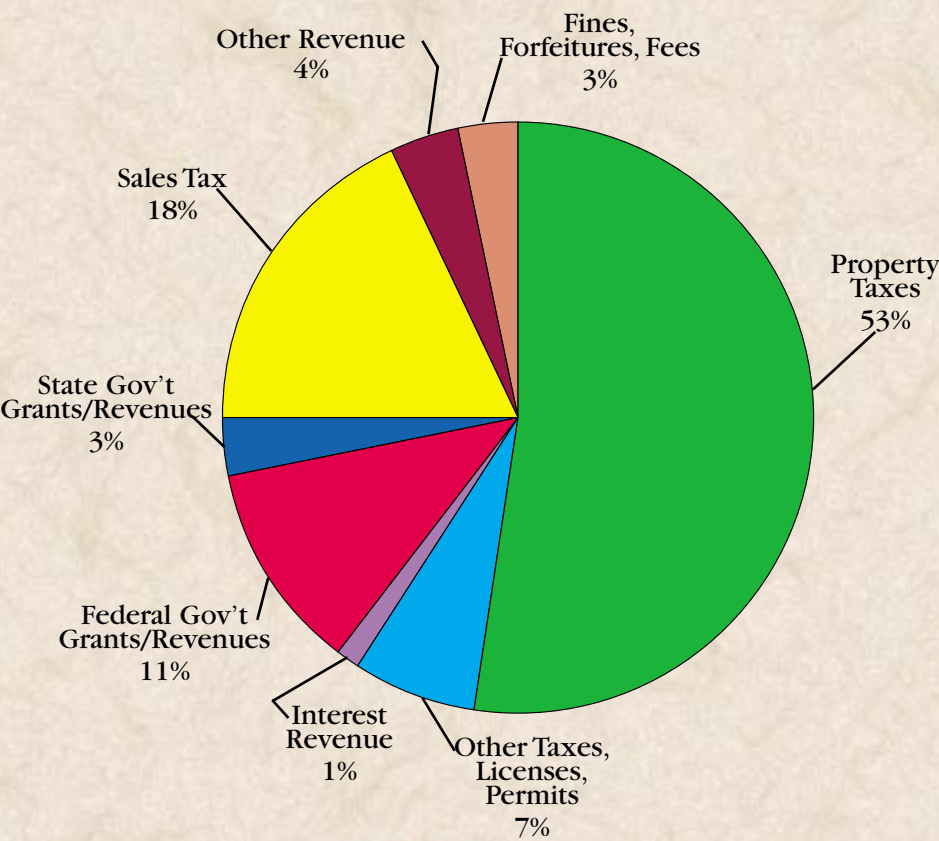


Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2001

Estimated Expenditures - General Fund



Estimated Revenues - General Fund



Rowan County Departments and Phone Numbers

ADMINISTRATION

638-3198

Animal Shelter	633-0482
Codes Enforcement	633-8747
Cooperative Extension	633-0571
County Assessor's Office	633-4601
County Manager's Office	636-0361
Detention Center	638-3051
Elections	633-6231
Emergency Services	638-0911
Environmental Health	642-2000
Environmental Services	638-3078
Finance	638-3090
Health Department	633-0411
Human Resources	636-1658
Landfill	278-2211
Library	638-3001

Information Systems	633-5761
Parks	636-2089
Planning / Zoning	638-3101
Pretrial Services	797-0530
Recycling Center	638-3045
Register of Deeds	638-3102
Senior Services	636-2344
Sheriff's Office	636-1011
Social Services	633-4921
Special Populations	637-3120
Tax Collector's Office	633-3871
Telecommunications	638-3111
Airport	633-5021
Convention & Visitor's Bureau	638-3100
Economic Development Commission	637-5526

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